

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 NEA-10 SP-02 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 OIC-02 DHA-02 /083 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5091

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUJUMBURA 0819

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ILO, PORG, US, BY

SUBJECT: BURUNDI REACTION TO NOTICE OF POSSIBLE U.S. WITHDRAWAL
FROM ILO

REF A, STATE 276287; B, STATE 259540

I HAD MEETING ON U.S. NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW
FROM ILO WITH SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER BARAKAMFITIYE AND
HIS DEPUTY, DIRECTOR GENERAL NDIKUMWAMI, ON NOVEMBER 24.
LATTER IS CLEARLY MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE
SENIOR BURUNDI OFFICIAL ON ILO AND WILL ATTEND AFRICAN ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING IN TOGO EARLY NEXT MONTH (REFTEL A).

BOTH BURUNDIANS WERE SYMPATHETIC TO IDEA OF KEEPING
U.S. IN ILO, BUT NEITHER INDICATED WHAT CONCESSIONS BURUNDI
MIGHT BE WILLING TO MAKE TO ACHIEVE THIS RESULT. BOTH
UNDERSTAND THAT PURPOSE OF SECRETARY'S LETTER (REF B) IS TO
IMPRESS OTHER ILO MEMBERS WITH SERIOUSNESS OF AMERICAN OBJECTIONS
TO MANY ASPECTS OF CURRENT ILO ACTIVITIES, SO THAT NEGOTIATIONS
AIMED AT FINDING GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISES WILL BE
ASSURED OF NECESSARY HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION. HOWEVER, NEITHER
PROFESSES TO COMPREHEND FULL RANGE OF U.S. COMPLAINTS, AND BOTH
WILL WANT TO HAVE THESE SPELLED OUT NOT ONLY IN MANY MORE
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SPECIFICS, BUT ALSO IN TERMS OF WHAT REFORMS ILO CAN REASONABLY
BE EXPECTED TO ADOPT, GIVEN WIDE POLITICAL DIVERGENCES AMONG

ITS MEMBERS.

WHILE BURUNDI DOES NOT THINK TRIPARTITE SET UP IS OUTMODED, IT BELIEVES MOST MEMBERS ARE UNINTERESTED IN THIS STRUCTURE FOR THEMSELVES. REFORM OF MOST CONCERN TO BURUNDI IS ABOLITION OF AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP OF TEN LEADING INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES ON ILO GOVERNING BOARD (SINCE THEY ALLEGEDLY EXCESSIVELY DOMINATE ILO BUSINESS IN ALL AREAS) AND GRANT OF BROADER BREAK TO LDC'S. BURUNDI FAVORS FULL AND CAREFUL INVESTIGATIONS OF ALL CHARGES OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS OR ILO CONVENTIONS AND IS NOT PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ISSUES THAT HAVE LED TO EXCESSIVE POLITICIZATION (IN U.S. VIEW) OF ILO.

COMMENT: BURUNDI DELEGATES WILL NOT INEVITABLY BE HOSTILE TO AMERICAN IDEAS ON NEW APPROACHES. HOWEVER, BURUNDI IS ALSO UNLIKELY TO STRAY FAR FROM ANY OAU CONSENSUS THAT APPEARS ON ANY GIVEN QUESTION. WHEN OAU MEMBERS ARE DIVIDED ON SOME POINT, SOME LOBBYING OF BURUNDI DELS MIGHT LINE THEM UP WITH MODERATES. MARK

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